

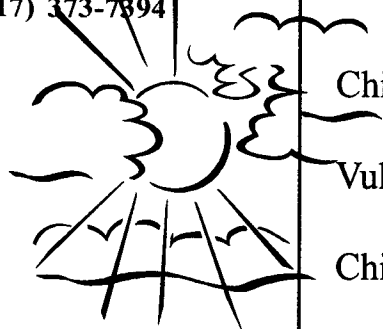
***Department
of
Human
Services***

Articles in Today's Clips

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

Prepared by the
DHS Office of
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(517) 373-7394



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WAYNE COUNTY

2 boys face charges in sex assault cases

June 14, 2006

BY CECIL ANGEL AND JACK KRESNAK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

A 12-year-old Highland Park boy has been charged with criminal sexual conduct after being accused of trying to force an 11-year-old Highland Park girl at gunpoint to have sex with him and later beating her for refusing his advances.

According to Wayne County sheriff's investigators, the alleged rape attempt took place about 4 p.m. Sunday at the boy's home in the 100 block of Midland, near Hamilton, in Highland Park.

Also at the home were another 11-year-old girl from Highland Park and a 13-year-old Highland Park boy. They were having sex in an upstairs bedroom while the attempted assault occurred, authorities said. The 13-year-old boy has been charged with second-degree criminal sexual conduct for having sex with the girl, who described him as her boyfriend, because there was no penetration, officials said.

If convicted, both boys could be held in a juvenile detention facility until they are 21. The boys also would have to register with the state as sex offenders.

The kids met at Reggie McKenzie Park in Highland Park, where the 12-year-old boy said: "Come to my house and get some water," Lt. Paul Jones said at a news conference Tuesday at the sheriff's office in Detroit.

When the four arrived at the house, where the 12-year-old's mother was home at the time, they went upstairs. The 13-year-old boy and his 11-year-old girlfriend disrobed in a bedroom. The 12-year-old boy and the other 11-year-old girl were in an upstairs hallway. "Basically, he sees the other two kids on the bed trying to have sex. He tells this girl 'I want to do what they're doing,' " Jones said.

The 12-year-old boy grabbed her and the girl said no, Jones said. He told her again that he wanted to have sex and she refused. He then went into another room and came back with a .22-caliber rifle loaded with three rounds and pointed it at the girl.

Jones said the boy then said, "If you don't have sex with me, I'm going to kill you."

At that time, the 12-year-old's mother came up the stairs to tell him that he had friends waiting for him on the front porch. Jones said the boy put the gun away and the children left.

Once outside, Jones said, the boy began beating the girl for refusing his requests for sex. The girl told her mother, she called police and the boys were arrested the same day. Both youths are in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility. The 12-year-old boy was charged with assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct involving penetration and a weapons charge.

The 13-year-old was charged with second-degree criminal sexual conduct. The boy, who turns 14 on June 25, asked for a probable cause hearing. That hearing is set for June 20.

Both boys appeared Monday before Wayne County Family Court referee Catherine Gardner, who set bonds at 10% of \$5,000. Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Robert Heimbuch said his office was working to appeal the low bond. The younger boy has no record of police contacts. The older boy was arrested in August on an assault and battery charge, but it was dismissed. "It's never easy when you hear of something like that happening," said Lawrence Meyer, chief of field operations for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.

Contact CECIL ANGEL at 313-223-4531 or angel@freepress.com.

Boy Accused Of Threatening Girl With Gun For Sex

Two Boys Held In Juvenile Custody In Connection With Incident

POSTED: 8:15 am EDT June 14, 2006

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. -- A 12-year-old Highland Park boy is accused of threatening an 11-year-old girl with a gun because she wouldn't have sex with him, Local 4 reported. Police said the boy's 13-year-old friend was having sex with another 11-year-old girl in a house on Midland Street. The other girl refused the 12-year-old's demands for sex, Local 4 reported.

"Then he goes into the other room, gets a rifle, comes back and points it at her and tells her if you don't have sex with me I'm going to kill you," said Lt. Paul Jones of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

Jones said an adult in the home came upstairs, "which stopped the whole thing."

The younger boy's mother, who was the adult home at the time, was unaware of the incident, Local 4 reported. She said she saw the girls leave the house giggling, according to the report. She also said her son admitted to showing the girls the gun, but nothing more, the station reported.

The Sheriff's Department said the four children met up at a park on Sunday afternoon, and the girls followed the boys back to the house on Midland Street. One girl allegedly consented to have sex with the 13-year-old boy, but the other girl refused to have sex with the 12-year-old boy, Local 4 reported.

The 13-year-old is accused of statutory rape, Local 4 reported. Both boys were taken to the Wayne County juvenile detention facility and will face charges as juveniles, according to the Sheriff's Department.

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Mom pleads mental illness in death of daughter

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

By Paul Janczewski
pjanczewski@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6333

Brenda S. Drayton told police and mental health authorities that she thought she was suffocating the child of Satan.

But she actually placed a pillow over the face of Lyah, her own 2-year-old daughter, killing her.

Drayton, 31, of Flint now faces up to life in prison when sentenced July 17 before Genesee Circuit Judge Richard B. Yuille, after she pleaded guilty but mentally ill to second-degree murder.

Drayton faces a minimum sentence of 12-20 years in prison and up to life on the maximum for her plea.

The incident occurred about 8 p.m. Nov. 29, 2004, at 1826 Mabel Ave., where Drayton, Lyah and her son lived.

Drayton told police several stories after the child was discovered dead, including one that she had a tough day with her daughter, who was getting into things and soiled her diaper.

In earlier hearings, witnesses said Drayton grabbed the child by the neck and held her face down on a bed after the child objected to taking a nap.

"I wasn't in my right mind," Drayton told Yuille on Tuesday.

At an earlier hearing, a pathologist said Lyah died from asphyxiation from being held down by her throat, neck, chest and back.

The child was found in a kitchen cupboard by her brother, 12, shortly after the assault, police said.

Drayton stood by emotionless as paramedics worked on the child, witnesses said at the earlier hearing.

After being sent for forensic testing, officials found her able to be held criminally responsible for her actions, even though she is diagnosed as having bipolar disorder,

being mildly retarded and suffering from psychotic episodes, mood disorders and hallucinations.

She has an IQ of 55, forensic officials said.

She told forensic examiners Lyah was a daughter of Satan.

After the incident, the state Family Independence Agency removed Drayton's son from the home under a temporary court order.

A child she had since then has also been taken, officials said.

Drayton was pregnant at the time of the slaying and delivered the baby while in the Genesee County Jail.

Child Found Wandering In Pontiac

Grandmother Was Baby-Sitting When Boy Disappeared

POSTED: 5:37 pm EDT June 13, 2006

Police are investigating a child found wandering in downtown Pontiac on Tuesday. The 4-year-old boy wandered up to a Local 4 news crew and said he was lost, Local 4 reported. Police were called to the scene, and officers took the boy in search of his home. The child was reunited with his grandmother, who was baby-sitting when he disappeared, Local 4 reported.

A report has been filed with child protective services.

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Runaway boy returns

The Grand Rapids Press

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

EDMORE -- A 10-year-old boy who ran away from home Monday, sparking an intensive search, tried to sneak back into his bedroom Tuesday night. A friend of the family saw a dirty and scratched up Sergio Nemetz trying to enter his bedroom just before 7 p.m., said Montcalm County sheriff's Deputy Clayton Thomas. The boy gave police multiple stories, but Thomas said "from what we can determine, he was running in the woods." He was being cared for by his grandmother while his mother was out of state for a funeral and his father, who had just returned from Iraq, was being debriefed in Mississippi. Both parents were returning to Michigan, Thomas said.

Man returned to face sex charges

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

By John S. Hausman

MUSKEGON CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

A 33-year-old Twin Lake-area man -- once the **foster child** of an older pedophile, later his domestic and business partner -- has been extradited to Muskegon County and arraigned on child molestation charges.

Gregory Alan Thompson was arraigned Friday in 60th District Court on two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a child younger than 13. Judge Harold F. Closz III set bond at \$500,000 cash or surety and scheduled a preliminary examination for 10 a.m. June 22. Thompson is charged as a second-time habitual offender, based on a prior felony conviction for writing three bad checks in 10 days.

Thompson was extradited from Nevada after serving his sentence there for a probation violation stemming from unrelated property-crime convictions, prosecutors said.

Muskegon County Prosecutor Tony Tague tried to get the defendant returned to Michigan as soon as charges were filed last year, knowing prosecution becomes more difficult the more time passes, especially with a juvenile victim. But a Nevada judge refused to extradite Thompson until his term was served.

In March 2005, Gregory Thompson and Daniel Adam Thompson, then 52, of Cedar Creek Township were charged with the same two counts, accused of molesting a young boy who lived with them for more than a year. Daniel Thompson later pleaded no contest as charged and in May 2005 was sentenced to prison for between 30 and 90 years.

The Thompsons are not blood relations. Gregory Thompson was originally the older man's foster child and later became his domestic partner, changing his last name from Johnson. Both referred to themselves as a "married couple" during past police interviews.

The victim in this case was a boy whose mother left him with the Thompsons. She allowed her son, who had behavioral problems, to live with the two men because she knew Daniel Thompson and knew he was a former foster parent and mentor to troubled boys.

Authorities say Gregory and Daniel Thompson bought the then-12-year-old victim and his younger brother gifts, including bicycles and video games. Both men allegedly molested the victim, including sexual intercourse, between May 2003 and September 2004, according to court papers.

The Thompsons have owned or managed several businesses in the Muskegon area.

At one time they managed the apartment building at 297 W. Clay in downtown Muskegon. In 1993 they bought the former Airline and Bruce motels in Muskegon Heights, renaming their venture Willow Tree Inn. By Labor Day 1997, when both buildings burned down, the Thompsons no longer owned them.

In 2002 the two men opened two restaurants, called Two Buckaroo's Cafe, on Lakeshore Drive and at Getty Street and Laketon Avenue. The restaurants later closed.

Internet users pose the hazard

Saginaw News

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Editor, The News:

The Internet doesn't commit crimes; individuals do.

In the past two days, two young girls (one from Reese and one from West Branch) each made a poor decision to visit men they met over the Internet. Thankfully for their parents, our community and the girls themselves, both were found to be safe and are returning home.

However, news reports across the country (and even in mid-Michigan) have hinted that the Internet is somehow responsible -- personifying and humanizing the computers we all use in our daily lives.

As the owner and chief designer of a Web design and communications firm, I see the positive effects of individuals, companies and organizations venturing into a digital landscape. You can pay bills online, order countless products and services and access more information than previous generations would have dreamed possible.

The Internet is just a network of computers and wires. However, when people speak about it, some treat it as if it were a person, someone or something to hold responsible. "Internet crime" describes countless crimes individuals commit using this powerful tool. Computers do not try to meet up with young children for immoral purposes; predators do. Computers don't try to steal your identity; thieves do.

The Internet is simply a tool, a device, a machine -- a way of instantly connecting thousands of people. Unfortunately, it connects everyone, even evil individuals.

I call upon the news media, citizens and everyone, stop personifying and humanizing the Internet. The next time you hear someone tell you about an "Internet crime," correct them. Remind them: The Internet doesn't commit crimes; individuals do.

Philip L. Ellison

owner/managing member

Quagmire Solutions

Hemlock

Not MySpace's fault

Editor, The News:

It is not MySpace.com that was at fault for these two girls running away from home and meeting someone not their age. We have to take some of the blame as parents.

There are too many of us who buy our children computers and allow them in their rooms, but do you check the computer? It seems to me you don't.

MySpace is a place for young people, but it never was. In fact, the person who has control over MySpace is a grown adult. There are more adults on this site than teenagers, so before everyone goes around blaming MySpace, take the computers out of your children's rooms and talk to your children. Give them time limits. Make it impossible for them to go to these sites instead of saying MySpace caused these girls to go away.

There might be more going on in your children's lives than you know. Start there instead of the computer Web sites.

Lisa M. Macon

Bridgeport Township

Michigan Report

June 13, 2006

EDUCATION BOARD CALLS FOR BULLYING BILLS

A model anti-bullying policy is still under development, but the State Board of Education officially called on the Legislature to force districts to adopt a policy.

Board Vice President John Austin (D-Ann Arbor) said it appeared anti-bullying legislation would not be moving through the House, but he said it was needed to ensure action by local districts.

“We should call on the Legislature to pass legislation that requires school districts to put in place a bullying policy based on the model policy,” he said. If the Legislature does not act, he said the board should at least pass a policy directing districts to adopt the policy.

He and others said the board, while it does have a policy recommending local anti-bullying policies, did not put a timeline on that original policy and may not, because it does not hold the purse strings, have any authority to enforce the policy.

Some board members raised concerns about calling for legislation before the board had its model policy in place, but the motion was worded to seek legislation calling on the department to develop such a policy. That would allow the department to complete the process of seeking comment on the draft policy.

Mary Ann Chartrand with the Office of Grant and School Support Services said she still hoped for more public review of the proposed model policy before bringing it to the board for approval.

“We were not able to get the breadth and depth of outside input we would like,” Ms. Chartrand said.

Nurse Admits Molesting Comatose Child, Court Papers Say

Man Allegedly 'Wanted To See If He Liked Children'

POSTED: 8:13 am EDT June 14, 2006

SAN DIEGO -- A nurse told investigators he touched the genitals of a comatose girl under his care at Children's Hospital "to see if he liked it," according to court documents unsealed Tuesday.

Christopher Alan Irvin, 32, pleaded not guilty in April to charges he molested the 4-year-old patient and trafficked in child pornography on the Internet.

An affidavit filed by San Diego police said that during an interview with officers Irvin admitted touching the girl's genitals on two occasions but "didn't get sexually aroused, so he decided he was not interested in children."

Irvin also told investigators he had downloaded child pornography to his computer, the affidavit said.

Irvin's lawyer, Deputy Public Defender DawnElla Gilzean, declined to comment Tuesday. At a hearing on Monday, she expressed concerns that releasing the affidavit would jeopardize Irvin's safety in jail, but did not appeal to keep the documents sealed. Police seized notebooks and journals in a search of Irvin's apartment and said one entry read: "I want to lay down at night & feel love & the presence of a (loved, comforted) little girl taken care of smart happy."

In a separate entry, he wrote, "Oh God, Ive strayed," according to the affidavit.

Irvin remained in custody in lieu of \$2 million bond. He is charged with two counts of lewd acts on a child under 14 and multiple counts of distributing child pornography.

If convicted of all counts, he could face a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

Investigators said in court hearings Monday that the case has expanded to include planned interviews with six children at an acute-care facility in Tallahassee, Fla., where Irvin worked as a registered nurse before moving to California. Files and documents seized at Irvin's home include the names of the children, investigators said.

Irvin worked in the intensive care unit at Children's Hospital from October 2004 until his arrest in April.

Another caregiver there, respiratory therapist Wayne Albert Bleyle, 54, was arrested in March. He has pleaded not guilty to charges that he molested five young patients, all of whom were unable to communicate because of brain damage or other severe conditions. He remained in custody in lieu of \$5 million bond.

Raylene Filley, a senior managing director of Children's Hospital legal staff, said that the hospital has hired extra staff to guarantee that two adults are present whenever patients are treated behind a curtain. The hospital has ordered curtains with mesh windows to maintain visibility for passersby.

"Everyone's on a heightened state of alert," Filley said Tuesday.

One Of Two Abducted Toddlers Killed After Amber Alert

Father Accused Of Kidnapping Children

POSTED: 8:54 am EDT June 14, 2006

UPDATED: 11:25 am EDT June 14, 2006

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. -- Police said an Amber Alert issued Tuesday in Indiana has ended tragically.

A man faces a murder charge, accused by police of abducting his two sons, killing one of them and injuring the other following a custody dispute.

They were found early Wednesday morning in Blackhawk, Ind., a few miles southeast of Terre Haute.

The 4-year-old son, Collin Walker, is dead and his 2-year-old brother, Monte Walker, is injured. The boy's father also suffered what police said were self-inflicted knife wounds.

Police said the boys were kidnapped by their father at knifepoint.

Police said 32-year-old Katron Walker had taken the boys to the lake, where witnesses told police they frequently went fishing. Police went to the lake after receiving a tip from a woman who told them she saw a man walking from the area, Indiana TV station WRTV reported.

Terre Haute Assistant Police Chief Bill Bergherm said Katron ran out of an abandoned trailer on the lake property as he held both children and jumped into the water at about 9 p.m. Officers went into the water, where they were able to rescue Monte. Officials said

Katron Walker was very uncooperative as they grabbed Monte and tried to search for Collin.

Police said Collin's body was later found by a dive team, after an extensive search. He had also been stabbed in the chest and had a laceration on his neck. Investigators found a knife they believe was used in the stabbings and some children's clothing in the trailer, WRT-TV reported.

Monte is being treated at an Indianapolis hospital, where he is listed in good condition. He is suffering from stab wounds and a laceration in his neck. He was rescued from the water during a struggle with the boys' father, according to WRT.

Police said Katron Walker cut his own throat and stabbed himself in the chest.

An Amber Alert was issued Tuesday after the boys' abduction. Police said Katron Walker had abducted his sons at knifepoint in Terre Haute, Ind.

The boys' mother, Teresa Walker, said that her children were kidnapped from their grandfather's house at knifepoint after she called her husband to tell him she wanted a divorce.

She said she had dropped the boys off at the home of her father, Michael Dwyer, after making the call to her husband.

Dwyer said Katron Walker took the boys from his back yard at knifepoint at about 10 a.m. Tuesday and sped off with them in a van. Police said the van had been stolen from a friend.

"My sister went out and she was trying to get them back," Dwyer said. "He threw her down and she came right back at him and he kicked her twice in the chest."

"When they were taken, they were terrified," Teresa Walker said Tuesday night. "They knew it was not normal and they knew it was not good."

Family members were thankful for help from police, but wondered why it took seven hours after the abduction before an Amber Alert was issued.

WRT reported that Katron Walker was charged with methamphetamine possession in in 2002. Officials said he also had meth in his system after his capture on Tuesday.

Distributed by Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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2A THE BAY CITY TIMES SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2006

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Agency Alert 352 P

BRIEFING

BAY CITY

Second inmate with overdose dies

A Bay County jail inmate hospitalized after a drug overdose has died.

Gabriel A. Rangel, 30, of Bay City, died late Thursday, according to an obituary from Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home.

Rangel had been in a coma since late May. He was one of several county jail inmates who took drugs, believed to be a form of methadone, that were smuggled into the jail by an inmate.

Richard Walter Born, 34, was found dead in his cell on May 25. Rangel was found unconscious. A third inmate became sick, but was not hospitalized.

Sheriff's officials were not available for comment Friday.

They last said they were awaiting toxicology results and considering filing murder charges against an inmate who smuggled in the drug.

Rangel's survivors include a wife and four children.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home, 700 N. Monroe.

Man burns foot
in grease fire

A man burned his foot while trying to put out a grease fire in Bay City on Friday.

After the family at 2136 4th St. had eaten lunch, a relative, Dean Pharis, 37, used the stove to light a cigarette, officials said.

But there was a greasy pan left on the stove, and the man forgot to turn the burner off, said Bay City Fire Battalion

Chief Mike Roznowski.

Pharis was in the living room later with his sister-in-law and four children when they saw smoke.

The man went into the kitchen and grabbed the flaming pan with his bare hands to take it outside, but took one step and dropped the pan on his foot, Roznowski said.

The fire was out when firefighters arrived. The man was treated at Bay City Regional Medical Center for what appeared to be second-degree burns, the chief said.

The kitchen sustained about \$1,000 in damages.

Woman arrested after taking bait

A 45-year-old Bangor Township woman was arrested Friday for allegedly bilking residents of an adult foster care home.

On Monday, Michigan State Police from the Bay City post were contacted by an undisclosed adult foster care home in Bay County and asked to investigate the theft of money from elderly residents, troopers said.

Defectives said they looked into the report and were able to identify a pattern of thefts.

On Friday, the woman was confronted after she was seen covering the lens of a surveillance camera and more money was reported missing from a resident, troopers said.

"Bait" money was allegedly found on the woman and she was lodged in the Bay County Jail on a felony charge of larceny in a building.

The woman was to be arraigned today in Bay County District Court.

Troopers did not release further details Friday, but said more information may be released today.

Wyoming felony kid

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) - A 12-year-old boy has been charged with felony kidnapping and custodial interference, police say he told the girl he was taking her to Michigan and drove her to the state capital over the Internet.

Jason Pickler, of Evanston, was charged Thursday night after he contacted the girl and said he drove to Branch last weekend to see the girl, according to documents.

Pickler told police he and the girl had been communicating in an Internet chat room for a year and a half and had become very close. According to authorities, he said he met the girl in Michigan and took her home to pick up before returning with her to his home in Evansville.

FAMILY to

NOV 14

Articulate and bright blonde and blue-eyed, she worked at a radio station in Reno where she read advertisements on the air and an "on-air personality," fans members said.

Lester skipped town Monday, a day after she told her mother she was going to Canada with a family friend for weeks. When the friend did show up, Shawn Lester exposed the vacation ruse but remained baffled.

Mary Lester said she knows the first thing she'll ask her son: "What were you thinking?" Tuscola County Undersheriff James Jashinski said he remained unclear if the teen was traveling alone or with a man who her family says has

Lansing State Journal Letters

June 14, 2006

Good dads are hurt

The Friend of the Court system is in need of some major change. It's unfair to fathers in matters of child support. I am not saying they should not pay support, but it should be adjusted according to money earned.

The good fathers who care about their children and want to father them are put in a position that ill-affords them to be able to father the kids. If the courts take two-thirds of their paychecks, how are fathers supposed to have enough to pay rent and utilities?

Some poor guys hold down two or three jobs and still cannot live, let alone care for their children.

Something needs to be done!

Because of deadbeat dads, the good fathers who are trying are left with nothing. Something is terribly wrong.

Eleanor Garrison
Okemos

LOCAL COLUMNISTS

ROCHELLE RILEY: Build campus to help youth flourish

June 14, 2006

BY ROCHELLE RILEY
FREE PRESS COLUMNIST



Jewell Akins, at right, uses dolls to teach about fetal alcohol syndrome in a life skills workshop at the CIAO Project in Detroit. Sitting, left to right, are Tricia Richardson, a transition specialist, Vantina Jenkins, 18, of Detroit, and Stacey Kline, 21, of Detroit. The goal of the CIAO Project (Creating Independence and Outcomes) is to prepare transitional foster youths for lives of independence. (MARY SCHROEDER/Detroit Free Press)

You may remember Gina Stamkofs, who at 18 has lived in 11 places, attended four high schools and is so afraid to be on her own that she plans to join the Coast Guard; or Katrina McQueen, the future lawyer who can't afford college. You might recall Jonnie Hill, who wants to start her own business if she can just find an apartment; or Jessica Lindsay, who has the all the makings of a U.S. senator, if she's not evicted this week and can swing that fifth college loan.

Since January, I've shared the stories of these and other smart, worthy young people who spent their childhoods in foster care, passed from place to place, growing more angry and frustrated with each move. Then when they hit 18, at a time when many kids are starting college careers marked by frequent calls home for advice or money, this group runs full force into the wall of adulthood. They are left on their own to struggle to find work, a place to live and a way to college.

Four out of five can't support themselves. One in four will spend time in jail; 25% will be homeless at some point, and 40% become parents.

Enough!

It is past time to do more for them than the state's current Band-Aid approach, past time for the bureaucracy, the Legislature, business and community leaders, especially anyone who is or has been a mom or dad, to get involved. These young people became all of our children through no fault of their own. They deserve better.

A campus like no other

Here's what the state should do immediately: Increase the Department of Human Services budget by \$47 million so it can: hire the 730 new foster caseworkers it needs to decrease caseloads from an average of 25 per worker to 10, and keep caseworkers assigned to youths until they reach age 21; pay for college education costs, which are not limited to tuition; create a statewide mentor system just for foster youth; and support their self-advocacy by using the recommendations they make in youth boards.

Here's my most important recommendation, an idea that youth and frontline workers have endorsed: The state and its residents should develop a small campus in southeast Michigan that would provide housing, remedial classes, a health clinic, financial literacy classes and vocational training for the nearly 2,000 former foster youth who are between the ages of 18-22 in any given year. They age out, nearly 500 at a time, from a system that is woefully under-funded and misunderstood and whose caseworkers have twice as many clients as they should.

These youth face the reality of a Michigan economy that can barely accommodate older, stronger workers, let alone young, unprepared ones. If you think this issue affects only 500 kids, you're wrong. These changes would help the next 100,000. They would help them become whole, instead of burdens to the millions who eventually foot the wrong bills: for welfare, health care and jail time.

State residents who have lost their jobs in this economic downturn could be hired to staff this campus I'm proposing. Laid-off or retired teachers could be recruited for it, and the state could offer tax incentives for area doctors and dentists to volunteer their services.

"That's wonderful!" Marianne Udow, director of the state Department of Human Services, said upon hearing of the idea. "Taking care of our children is a shared responsibility, not just the state's responsibility. ... It's a shared responsibility with the community, the courts and citizens."

Challenge to communities

Here's what communities can do: Create local mentor hotlines to pair foster children with responsible adults who can answer questions, advise about careers or just offer comfort -- and volunteer to visit the campus to speak with young people, letting them know their pasts don't have to be their futures.

"What we really want is communities to see how important these children are and to provide the caring, nurturing environments, mentoring, after-school services and enrichment these children need," Udow said.

Some former foster youth have lived in six to 12 homes and attended up to nine high schools. That kind of turmoil does not breed confidence or independence.

A transitional campus could give them not just a sense of place, but a sense of constructive peace as they work to become stronger, better-prepared adults whose children don't wind up in foster care.

"What you just explained is my dream! That is my ultimate goal -- to see something like that happen," said Paul Duford, director of the CIAO Project, which helps former foster youth aged 17-21 prepare for adulthood. "When kids come in here, one of the most moving statements they make is, 'This is the first family I feel like I've ever had.' They need wraparound services. If they have a place like what you're talking about, that would solve so many problems."

The CIAO Project, which is housed at 1300 Rosa Parks Blvd., began operating in March 2005 as one of five pilot foster projects across the country. Its \$800,000 budget comes from the Department of Labor, with a match from federal funds. But only 150 youth are enrolled.

There are other roles that every Michigan entity and resident can play. For instance, the auto companies could offer free four-year leases on cars for the youth, giving them dependable transportation and creating brand loyalty for the future. Every CEO who believes that no child should be left behind could send a \$1,000 annual check to support the campus. And any responsible adult could become a mentor.

The transitional campus would make Michigan a national leader in helping older foster youth and meet the pace of progress in other states. For instance, Texas provides free college tuition; Colorado has made strides in reuniting families. California has made news for its job training and partnerships with construction companies. Utah's Medicaid program ensures that aged-out youth have health insurance.

Inspiring efforts going on now

Some things are starting to happen here.

Marygrove College in Detroit is exploring a plan to accommodate Michigan students who age out. And the Salvation Army's Denby Center, which houses children in crisis, is raising money to renovate a cottage on its grounds to house six young women who used to be in foster care. Moreover, I've heard from hundreds of Michigan programs and residents who want to donate money, accommodations or mentorship.

These efforts are nothing short of inspiring. But a campus that can give our teens the preparation they need for adulthood is something we can all work to make happen. It is a sad time when our most passionate advocates fight against fur or for immigration, but we can't muster up some good old-fashioned outrage over children who were thrown away.

ROCHELLE RILEY'S columns appear Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Contact her at rriley99@freepress.com or 313-223-4473.

WHERE TO FIND HELP

- Foster youths 14 and over or who have aged out of the system and need help in Wayne County can call Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative at 313-456-1003 or the CIAO (Creating Independence and Outcomes) Project at 313-628-2302. Former foster youths statewide can call Department of Human Services Youth Coordinator Shannon Gibson at 517-241-8904 to learn about the Youth in Transition program, which provides funds to help pay for housing and college.

If you are interested in becoming a foster family, call any county office of the Michigan Department of Human Services. Those numbers in metro Detroit are: Wayne County, 313-396-KIDS; Oakland, 248-975-5418; and Macomb, 586-469-5834.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a foster youth who is aging out of the system, call the CIAO Project at 313-628-2302 or Mentor Michigan at 1-800-VOLUNTEER and specify that you'd like to help a former foster child.

If you'd like to participate in the creation of a transitions campus where former foster youths can live, learn and prepare for life,

please send an e-mail to rriley99@freepress.com with the subject

line: **Transitions Campus.**

ABOUT THIS SERIES

- This is the latest in a series of columns by Rochelle Riley on the challenges faced by foster children who age out of the state system and are too old to receive further help. Last year, 457 of the state's 18,959 foster youths aged out of the system. At 18, many are basically left on their own to find housing, transportation, jobs and health care. Today's column proposes solutions to make this crucial transition easier. Read previous installments of this series at www.freep.com/rochelleriley.

Trial will follow drug buy gone bad

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

DARRYL Q. TUCKER
THE SAGINAW NEWS

A Saginaw man who spent his childhood moving from one foster home to another now is defending himself against charges of trying to rob a drug dealer.

Shelton D. Dawkins, 21, of 1309 Randolph contributed to a Saginaw News report in May on the turmoil foster children face.

Dawkins, who has a previous conviction for home invasion, did not escape the chains. He is facing charges of assault with intent to murder Scott R. Kinsman, armed robbery, carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent, possessing a firearm as a felon and possessing a firearm while committing a felony.

Dawkins suffered three gunshot wounds to the chest during an April 20 incident at a duplex at 2214 Bay.

Kinsman testified this week in Saginaw County District Court that he just wanted to sell his half-pound of marijuana for \$775 and go on his way.

Instead, he said he found himself in a shootout with a man -- he later learned was Dawkins -- who tried to rob him of his drugs.

Kinsman, 19, said he suffered a gunshot wound to his left arm. He said he fired his gun at Dawkins.

Chief District Judge Kyle Higgs Tarrant concluded a preliminary hearing by ordering Dawkins to stand trial in Circuit Court. Officials have not set a trial date for Dawkins, who is in jail on a \$600,000 cash or surety bond.

A conviction could lead to a sentence of up to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Kinsman said he agreed to supply marijuana to an acquaintance who contacted him.

The buyer arrived at the duplex with three other men, Kinsman said. One of the men wanted to see the drugs and weigh the pot, Kinsman said.

The men didn't want to pay \$775, so Kinsman said he agreed to sell it for \$760.

"That's when somebody tried to rush the door," he said.

Kinsman said he and another man tried to close the door.

"Then I saw somebody with a gun, and he started shooting," he said. "That's when I backed up."

The gunman fired at least two shots -- one in the air and another that Kinsman said hit his arm.

"I pulled my pistol out of my pocket and I returned fire," he said. "I was shooting where I thought he was. I couldn't see anything."

After firing his .40-caliber handgun through a glass window, Kinsman said, he ran out a front door and to a friend's house. Minutes later, he said, the friend took him to a hospital.

Police said Dawkins had a .22-caliber pistol.

Kinsman is facing charges of delivering marijuana, carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent and possessing a firearm while committing a felony.

In return for his testimony, prosecutors have agreed to dismiss the charge of possessing a firearm while committing a felony, which carries a mandatory term of two years in prison. The other charges can carry a term of probation.

Darryl Q. Tucker covers courts for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9686.

Arrest Warrant Issued For D'mitri Young

Detroit Tigers Player Falied To Appear In Court

POSTED: 11:25 am EDT June 14, 2006

The Detroit Tigers' D'mitri Young is wanted by the police after failing to appear for a court hearing.

Young, who is accused of choking his girlfriend in a Birmingham hotel in April, was expected to appear in court on Tuesday, Local 4 reported.

Neither Young nor his attorney showed up in court. A judge issued an arrest warrant for Young.

Young's attorney said he requested a delay in the appearance because Young is out of state in rehab. The judge said the request came in too late.

Katrina defrauder begins prison sentence

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A Flint woman is in prison after claiming to be a Hurricane Katrina victim to scam \$1,565 from the local Red Cross.

Gwendolyn D. Jones, 36, a mother of five, had been living in Flint for nearly a year before the August 2005 hurricane that killed more than 1,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

But she told the Red Cross she and children lost everything in the disaster and needed help. Jones previously lived in Mississippi for 10-15 years and used a state identification card to get the money.

A tipster led police to Jones, who is now serving 1 year, 11 months to 5 years in prison. She also must pay restitution as part of her court sentencing last month.

Keeping the dream alive

Martin Luther King III brings anti-poverty campaign to BH

By ANN BURCH
H-P Correspondent

June 14, 2006

BENTON HARBOR — Thirty-nine years after his celebrated father turned his focus to poverty, Martin Luther King III is touring the nation to again bring attention to the chronic problem.

Among King's 20 stops in the "Realizing the Dream" movement tour was Benton Harbor.

"This is our first effort to address the issue of reducing poverty in America," King said Tuesday on the second day of a two-day tour of the city of 12,000. "During the 1960s that was my father's campaign, but he did not live to see that come to fruition. The real tragedy is ... 39 years later we have still not made that mission." The Realizing the Dream effort began about a year ago when King concluded that not enough had changed since his father, Martin Luther King Jr., led the famous 1963 civil rights march on the nation's Capitol.

Poverty remains a major American problem.

"Our most precious resource is our children," King told a group gathered at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Benton Harbor. "We have a trillion-dollar federal budget. Major cities and states have million-dollar budgets, not to mention corporate dollars. But how do we treat our children?" One of his father's missions was to eliminate the poverty cycle. The elder King argued that poverty hurts not only the poor but the entire community.

"We are all interdependent and connected," the 49-year-old King said. "Our destiny is tied together. We don't want to deal with poverty. But loving your community means you don't accept poverty." King arrived Monday after visiting San Antonio. He traveled on to Gary, Ind., and will visit Chicago and East St. Louis, Ill., next week. He said the tour will include American Indian communities and cities in the Mississippi Delta.

He said each city in his tour will be filmed, along with interviews with religious, governmental and business leaders. A documentary will be made that will be shared with the communities.

"Benton Harbor is a city I had come to know when I first visited 10 years ago," King said. "The city was facing a high unemployment rate and it still is today. I am glad to see Benton Harbor is on the move, but there are many challenges." King said Benton Harbor's youth need an educational foundation supported by parents who see the economic benefits an education brings.

"That is a daunting task, but I believe it can be addressed," King said.

While in Benton Harbor on Monday, King toured the city's infrastructure of services, businesses, educational facilities and housing complexes. His day began with a prayer

breakfast at Ebenezer Baptist Church. He then walked across the street to speak to Calvin Britain Elementary School students before boarding a bus for a “windshield” and walking tour for the remainder of the morning.

Lunch was at the Dickens Cafe at the Mercy Center, which included a tour of the former hospital that houses a variety of medical and human service practices. The tour resumed in the afternoon, often not on schedule, as King stopped to talk with people from the community.

“I saw a lot of vacant lots and many positive efforts to clean up the city,” King said of his tour. “The residents talked about the high crime rate and issues with the police, which are just not unique to Benton Harbor. They said, ‘ We want decent jobs.’” King’s day on Tuesday began a little differently. He met with Benton Harbor Area School officials and Cornerstone Alliance members, the Council for World-Class Communities, where he learned about the Regional Development Program of Diversity and Inclusion and the Bridges to Digital Excellence – Computer Placement Program.

He visited the Michigan Works! office, the Berrien County Courthouse, held a press conference and spoke to the group at Ebenezer Baptist Church – all before lunch.

In the afternoon, King toured the Harbor Shores redevelopment project area, attended a citizens rally, participated in a conference call with Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s office and attended the school board meeting.

“Obviously, one of the most important subjects to transform communities is education,” King told school board members. “We believe there is nothing more important in a community than its education system.” In the evening he spoke at a town hall meeting at the high school.

“Don’t get anywhere tired,” King told the group at the church. “We’ve come a long way, but our work is not over.”

H-P Staff Writer Sarah Mc Evilly contributed to this report.

This Week APHSA in Washington

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House Appropriations Subcommittee Rejects SSBG Cut

On June 7, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education marked up its fiscal year 2007 spending bill. The panel rejected the administration's proposal to cut the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) by \$500 million, and instead chose to fund the program at its current level of \$1.7 billion. On June 6, APHSA and the National Conference of State Legislatures had submitted a letter to Appropriations Committee leadership strongly opposing the SSBG cuts. The subcommittee also rejected the administration's proposal to eliminate the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). However, under CSBG, the \$630.4 million Grants to States program was cut by \$200 million and the \$5.3 million Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals program was eliminated. In the Medicaid program, the subcommittee did not include the administration's specific proposals on targeted case management, provider tax reform, third-party liability, certain school-based services, capping payments to government providers, limiting reimbursement for multiple-source drugs to 150 percent of the average manufacturers price, and others. The total funding for FY 2007 Medicaid grants to states is estimated at \$138 billion based on projections from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The subcommittee assumed that, under current law, spending for Medicaid benefits will be \$14.6 billion lower in FY 2007 than in FY 2006. In turn, this will reduce state and local administrative spending by \$453 million. The subcommittee maintained the Child Care and Development Fund at the same level as FY 2006, as requested by the administration. The budget would provide \$2.062 billion in discretionary funds, maintaining the 1 percent reduction in discretionary funding enacted in FY 2006. APHSA has sent a detailed description of the subcommittee markup to all states. The spending measure is set to go to the full House Appropriations Committee next week; the Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet taken up its version of the bill. More details are online at http://appropriations.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=626&Month=6&Year=2006.

Senate Marks Up Meth Bill

On June 8, the Senate held a markup hearing to consider the Improving Outcomes for Children Affected by Meth Act of 2006. The markup language reauthorizes the Promoting Safe and Stable

Families program (PSSF) through FY 2011. The mark creates a new section in PSSF to authorize the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to regional partnerships that provide services and activities to increase the well-being of children at-risk of removal or in foster care resulting from a caretaker's methamphetamine abuse. The mark also includes language requiring states to establish procedures to provide additional evaluation of any family seeking to foster or adopt a large number of children or more than one sibling group. It also includes provisions to reauthorize the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program. Senate Finance Committee members in attendance at the markup included Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ranking Member Max Baucus (D-Mont.) as well as Sens. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), Jim Bunning (R-Ky.), Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.), Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), and Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.). Member statements from the hearing can be found at <http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/hearing060806.htm>.

Senate Finance Committee Approves Indian Health Care Act

On June 8, the Senate Finance Committee approved the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2006. The bill clarifies the way in which Indian health providers are reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program for services provided on or near reservations or at urban Indian organizations. The bill was previously approved by the Indian Affairs Committee, and went to the Finance Committee because of that panel's jurisdiction over the Medicaid provisions in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The bill's provisions, originally introduced last year as S. 1057 by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), can be found online at <http://www.aphsa.org/disabilities/publications/chairmans-mark.pdf>.

CMS Proposes Details for PERM Reviews and Samples

On May 26, CMS published a notice clarifying some of its plans for the new Payment Error Reporting Measurement system. The main points of the notice include: (1) states will be performing the eligibility reviews on both active and negative cases, with active cases stratified; (2) the new sample sizes will be standard for all states and programs, with 501 active and 200 negative cases per year per program; and (3) reviews will be similar to the current traditional Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control reviews. CMS stated the notice on the eligibility review methodology is based on recommendations from an eligibility workgroup and public comments. CMS is accepting comments on the notice through July 25, 2006. The notice was published in the May 26 Federal Register (71 FR 30409-30410) and is available at www.nasmd.org/PERM-RSCS/perm-resources.htm.

HHS Announces Additional State Funding for Bioterrorism Preparedness

On June 6, HHS announced the availability of an additional \$1.2 billion for states, territories, and four metropolitan areas to strengthen their capacity to respond to terrorism and public health emergencies. The funds will be used to improve infectious disease surveillance and investigation; enhance the preparedness of hospitals and the health care system to deal with large numbers of casualties; expand public health laboratory and communications capacities; and improve connectivity between hospitals and city, local, and state health departments to enhance disease reporting. Additional information is online at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060607.html>.

ACF Releases TANF Work Participation Verification Burden Notice in Error

On June 6, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published a notice describing the estimated burden on states of collecting information necessary to comply with the new DRA Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work participation verification mandates. The notice estimates that states will have to spend an average of nearly 3,200 hours per year complying with the information collection requirements, with states reporting on their Separate State Programs-Maintenance of Effort programs needing an additional 714 average hours per year. The national total of estimated hours needed to comply is more than 623,000 hours. ACF later notified APHSA that the

notice was published in error, and should have been withheld until issuance of an Interim Final Rule, expected by June 30, that will cover all TANF requirements enacted in the DRA. The notice was published in the June 6 Federal Register (71 FR 32554) and is available at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-5116.htm>.

ACF Publishes Final Notice on CFSR Data Measures

On June 7, ACF released the final notice of the data measures, composites, and national standards to be used for Round Two of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs). In November 2005, ACF released a proposal to replace the six national data measures from Round One of the CFSRs with six data composites. According to the final notice, ACF will replace the six data measures used in Round One with four data composites and two single measures in Round Two of the CFSRs. The notice also provides information on the methodology used to develop the composites and a description of the data that will be provided in the State Data Profile. The notice was published in the June 7, Federal Register (71 FR 32969-32987) and is available online at www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html.

ACF Requests Comments on LIHEAP Leveraging Report

On June 7, ACF announced a request for comments on a three-year extension of the currently approved Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) leveraging report. The LIHEAP leveraging report is an application submitted by LIHEAP grantees to obtain leveraging incentive funds. The leveraging report collects information on the non-federal home energy resources leveraged by LIHEAP grantees; the benefits provided to low-income households using these resources; and the fair market value of the resources. Comments should be submitted within 60 days. The notice was published in the June 7 Federal Register (71 FR 32968) and is available online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

ACF Requests Comments on Head Start Obesity Prevention Program

On June 7, ACF announced a request for comments on an evaluation of the Head Start I Am Moving, I Am Learning (IM/IL) Program in Region III. The IM/IL program was designed to help prevent obesity in children through enhancements to current Head Start teaching and family support practices. The program provides more focused guidance to families on quality movement, gross and fine motor development, and nutrition. Comments should be submitted within 60 days. The notice was published in the June 7 Federal Register (71 FR 32966-32967) and is available online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.